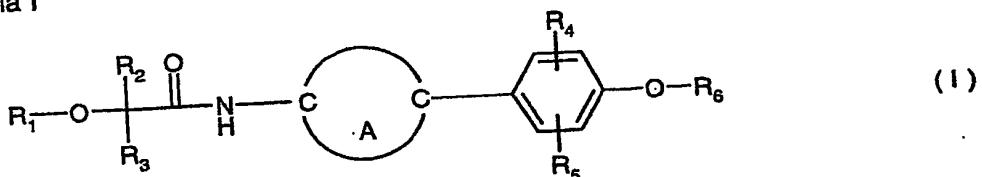


- 34 -

What is claimed is:

1. N-Aryl-cycloalkylidenyl- α -hydroxy- and α -alkoxy acetic acid amides of the general formula I



including the optical isomers thereof and mixtures of such isomers, wherein

R₁ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl; C₂-C₁₂alkenyl; C₂-C₁₂alkynyl; C₁-C₁₂haloalkyl;

R₂ is hydrogen; C₁-C₄alkyl; C₁-C₄haloalkyl; C₂-C₅alkenyl or C₂-C₅alkynyl;

R₃ is aryl or heteroaryl, each optionally substituted with substituents selected from the group comprising C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkenyl, C₂-C₈alkynyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl-C₁-C₄alkyl,

phenyl and phenyl-C₁-C₄alkyl, where all these groups may be substituted with one or more halogen atoms; C₁-C₈alkoxy, C₃-C₈alkenyloxy; C₃-C₈alkynyoxy; C₁-C₈alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl;

C₁-C₈haloalkyl, C₁-C₈alkylthio; C₁-C₈haloalkylthio, C₁-C₈alkylsulfonyl; formyl; C₁-C₈alkanoyl;

hydroxy; cyano; nitro; amino; C₁-C₈alkylamino; C₁-C₈dialkylamino; carboxyl; C₁-C₈alkoxycarbonyl; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy carbonyl and C₃-C₈alkynyoxy carbonyl; or

bonyl; A is a 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene bridge,

R₄ is hydrogen C₁-C₈alkyl; C₂-C₈alkenyl; C₂-C₈alkynyl; C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; C₃-C₈cycloalkyl-

C₁-C₈alkyl; C₁-C₈alkylthio; C₁-C₈alkylsulfonyl; C₁-C₈alkoxy; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy; C₃-C₈alkynyoxy;

C₃-C₈cycloalkoxy; C₁-C₈alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; C₁-C₈alkoxycarbonyl; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy carbonyl;

C₃-C₈cycloalkoxy; C₁-C₈alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; C₁-C₈alkoxycarbonyl; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy carbonyl; C₃-C₈alkynyoxy carbonyl; C₁-C₈alkanoyl; C₁-C₈dialkylamino or C₁-C₈alkylamino, wherein in

C₃-C₈alkenyloxy carbonyl; C₁-C₈alkanoyl; C₁-C₈dialkylamino or C₁-C₈alkylamino,

is carboxyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; hydroxy or amino; and

R₅ is hydrogen; C₁-C₈alkyl; C₂-C₈alkenyl; C₂-C₈alkynyl; C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; C₃-C₈cyclo-

alkyl-C₁-C₄alkyl; C₁-C₈alkylthio; C₁-C₈alkylsulfonyl; C₁-C₈alkoxy; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy; C₃-C₈alky-

nyloxy; C₃-C₈cycloalkoxy; C₁-C₈alkoxy-C₁-C₄alkyl; C₁-C₈alkoxycarbonyl; C₃-C₈alkenyloxy carbonyl; C₃-C₈alkynyoxy carbonyl; C₁-C₈alkanoyl; C₁-C₈dialkylamino or C₁-C₈alkylamino, wherein in turn the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl moieties may be partially or fully halogenated; or is carboxyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; hydroxy or amino; and

R₆ is propargyl.

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2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 is hydrogen

3. A compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein R_4 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_8 alkyl; C_1 - C_8 haloalkyl; C_2 - C_8 alkenyl; C_2 - C_8 alkynyl; C_1 . C_8 alkylthio; C_1 - C_8 haloalkylthio; C_1 - C_8 alkoxy; C_1 - C_8 haloalkoxy; C_1 - C_8 alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 alkyl; C_1 . C_8 alkoxycarbonyl; C_1 - C_8 alkanoyl; formyl; halogen; nitro; cyano or hydroxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 alkyl; C_1 - C_4 haloalkyl; C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; C_1 - C_4 alkoxycarbonyl; C_1 . C_4 alkanoyl; formyl; halogen; cyano or hydroxy; and R_6 is propargyl.

4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R_1 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; and R_2 is hydrogen and R_3 is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from C_1 . C_8 alkyl, C_2 - C_8 alkenyl, C_3 . C_8 cycloalkyl, C_1 . C_8 alkoxy, C_1 . C_8 alkylthio, C_1 . C_8 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 . C_8 haloalkyl, C_1 . C_8 haloalkoxy, C_1 . C_8 haloalkylthio, halogen, nitro or cyano; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene, and R_4 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 alkyl; C_1 - C_4 alkoxy; C_1 - C_4 haloalkoxy or halogen; and R_5 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 alkyl; halogen or cyano; and R_6 is propargyl.

5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or C_2 - C_5 alkynyl; and R_2 is hydrogen and R_3 is phenyl; C_1 - C_4 alkylphenyl or halophenyl; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene or 1,2-cyclopropylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen; methoxy or ethoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or propargyl; and R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one to two substituents selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio or trifluoromethoxy; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen or methoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

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- 37 -

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein R_1 is hydrogen or propargyl; and R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one to two substituents selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, methoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio or trifluoromethoxy; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen or methoxy; and R_5 is propargyl.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein R_1 is propargyl; and R_2 is hydrogen; and R_3 is phenyl optionally substituted by one to two substituents selected from the group comprising fluoro, chloro and bromo, or is phenyl optionally substituted by one substituent selected from the group comprising methyl, ethyl, methoxy, phenyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethylthio or trifluoromethoxy; and A is 1,2-cyclohexylidene; and R_4 is hydrogen or methoxy; and R_5 is hydrogen; and R_6 is propargyl.

9. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group comprising

2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-phenyl-acetamide,
 2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
 2-(4-bromophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-acetamide,
 N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-phenyl-2-prop-2-ynloxy-acetamide,
 2-prop-2-ynloxy-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynloxy-acetamide,
 2-(4-chlorophenyl)-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynloxy-acetamide, and
 2-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-N-[*trans*-2-(3-methoxy-4-prop-2-ynloxy-phenyl)-cyclohexyl]-2-prop-2-ynloxy-acetamide.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, which comprises reacting an α -hydroxy- or α -alkoxy acid of formula II

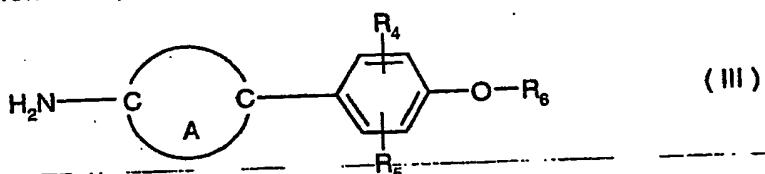
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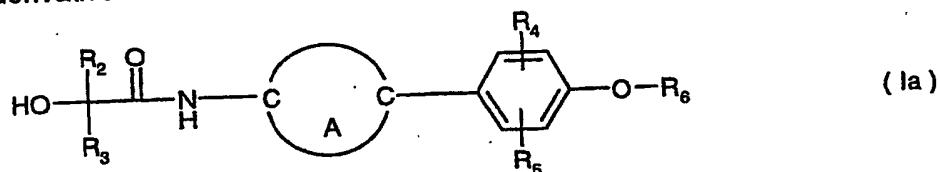


wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are as defined for formula I, or a carboxyl-activated derivative of the acid of formula II, is reacted with an amine of formula III wherein A, R_4 , R_5 and R_6 , are as defined for formula I, with an amine of formula III



wherein A, R_4 , R_5 and R_6 , are as defined for formula I.

11. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I wherein R_1 is as defined in claim 1 with the exception of hydrogen, which process comprises reacting an α -hydroxy acid derivative of formula Ia

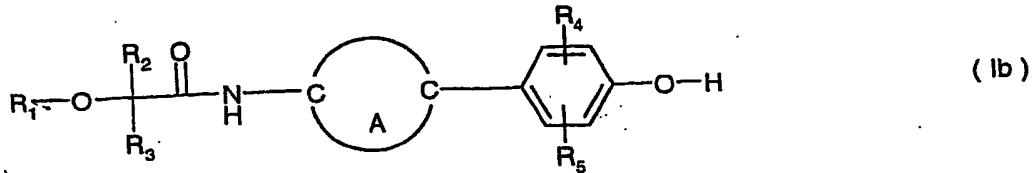


wherein A, R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are as defined for formula I, with an alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynylhalide of formula IV



wherein R_1 is as defined for formula I, with the exception of hydrogen, and where X is a leaving group like a halide such as a chloride or bromide, or a sulfonic ester such as a tosylate, mesylate or triflate.

12. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I wherein R_6 is as defined in claim 1 with the exception of hydrogen, which process comprises reacting a phenol of formula Ib



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where A, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, and R₅ are as defined for formula I, with a compound of formula V

$$Y-R_6 \quad (V)$$

where R₆ is as defined for formula I but is not hydrogen and where Y is a leaving group like a halide such as a chloride or bromide or a sulfonic ester such as a tosylate, mesylate or triflate.

13. A composition for controlling and protecting against phytopathogenic microorganisms, comprising a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient together with a suitable carrier.

14. The use of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 in protecting plants against infestation by phytopathogenic microorganisms.

15. A method of controlling and preventing an infestation of crop plants by phytopathogenic microorganisms, preferably fungal organisms, which comprises the application of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 as active ingredient to the plant, to parts of plants or to the locus thereof.

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